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Burma: [The Ne Win regime has tentative plans to suspend relations with Peking.]

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[The Burmese Government is deeply concerned over the possibility of covert Chinese infiltration of ethnic minority groups along the border, partly as a way to establish corridors of communication to the White Flag's main centers of strength in central Burma.]

[There apparently has been a small increase in insurgent activity recently in the border area. A significant upsurge would tend to reinforce Burmese fears of a Chinese hand in these operations and might prompt them to suspend diplomatic relations.]

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USSR-US: [There was no indication in the recent unofficial talks between US and Soviet scientists that the Soviet Government is nearing a decision on whether to discuss the ABM question with the US officially.]

[The meeting in December between US and Soviet academic specialists concerned with arms control did not address the fundamental issues in the ABM question. The Soviets stated that their government had not yet decided how far to go in deploying an ABM system. The Russians, in what is apparently a holding action designed to explore American thinking without commitments on their part, asked that the unofficial talks be renewed.]

[The Soviets said their group would meet with Kosygin and possibly Brezhnev this week. They also requested that the next meeting with the American scientists should discuss such questions as how US-Soviet talks should begin, whether mutually acceptable limits on ABMs can be found, how "other nuclear powers" would affect the scope and nature of an agreement, and what types of controls would be involved to verify limitations on weapons deployment.]

[The Soviet scientists were, however, pessimistic about the state of Soviet-US relations in the light of the Vietnam war and expressed fear that further deterioration would mean the end of the exchanges.]

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Cyprus: Secretary General Thant is unlikely to have much success in his efforts to mediate the Cyprus dispute.

The Turks have consistently questioned Thant's impartiality and have cited a number of cases in which they believe he has favored the Greek Cypriot position.

Ankara views Thant's mandate from the Security Council as limited to security matters and the disarmament of all illegal forces on the island. The Turks insist the mandate does not include mediation of a final political settlement. Turkish Foreign Minister Caglayangil has asked the US, UK, and Canada to so inform the secretary general.

[Although the Turks have not recently restated their basic views on a Cyprus settlement, they probably will demand federation, cantonization, or partition. They will also insist on continued recognition of the integrity of the London-Zurich accord, which originally created the Republic of Cyprus.]

The withdrawal of Greek forces from Cyprus is proceeding according to plan, but this may give rise to a fresh storm in Ankara. The Greeks have now assured the NATO secretary general that all unauthorized Greek forces will be withdrawn from Cyprus prior to the agreed deadline. The Turks may challenge the Greek figures, however, as the Turkish estimate of Greek forces runs somewhat higher than the figure recently given by the Greek foreign minister.

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Dominican Republic: [The relative stability achieved by the Balaguer government is coming under heavy pressure.]

[The US ambassador in Santo Domingo believes that antigovernment groups of varied political affiliation, including radical "Constitutionalists" on the left and "Wessinistas" on the right, are now trying hard to undermine, if not overthrow, President Balaguer.]

[The situation at the leftist Autonomous University of Santo Domingo is heating up again. Communist-controlled student organizations are threatening disturbances on campus and in the streets of the capital. A confrontation between the Balaguer government and the university administration and students appears inevitable.]

[The ambassador estimates that between now and the municipal elections in May the situation will become even more delicate. He notes, however, that the Dominican military is still loyal to Balaguer and believes that with continued demonstrations of US political and economic support he "has a better than even chance of survival through the elections in May."]

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NOTES

Congo (Brazzaville): President Massamba-Debat assumed "personal control" of the government yesterday in a sweeping cabinet shake-up that included the ouster of Prime Minister Noumazalay, according to press reports. Although the full significance of the change remains unclear, Massamba-Debat has in recent months supported relatively moderate and pro-French policies in the radical single party regime. The extremists, with whom Noumazalay was associated, probably will renew the harassing tactics that gained them a strong voice in the past.

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Poland: Rumors concerning high-level party and government personnel changes have flared up again. Such stories began circulating about a year ago, but they have become more prevalent during the past several weeks, presumably encouraged by the turmoil in the Czechoslovak party. The persistence of such talk is a reflection of the chronic factional squabbling in the Polish Communist Party.

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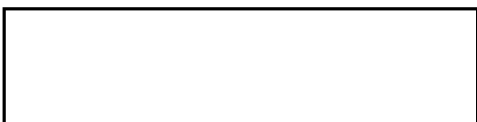
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